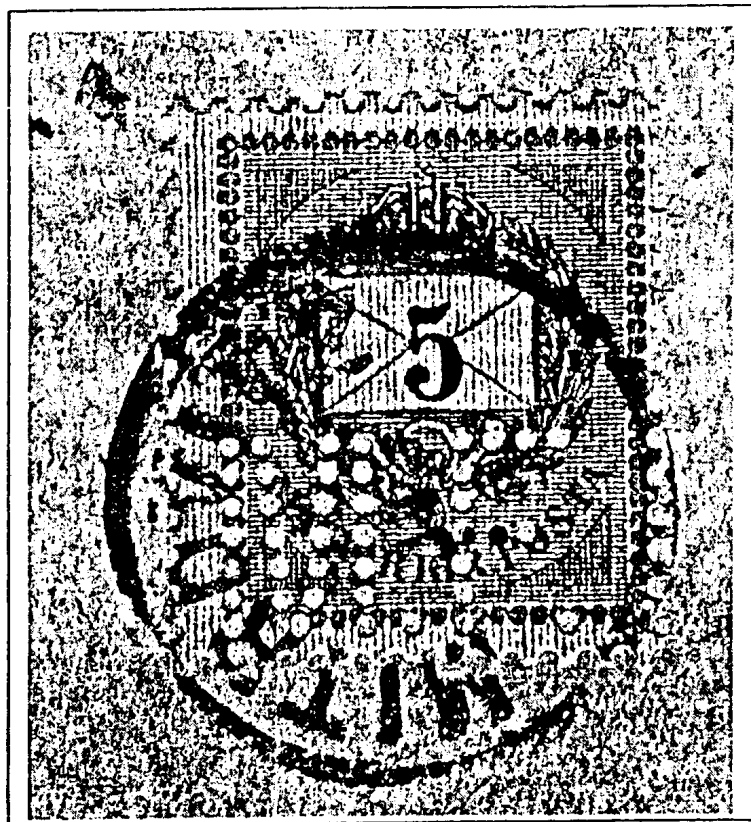


YUGOSLAV/HUNGARY ITEM

By **Geoff Barling** and taken from *Jugoposta* (the journal of the Yugoslavia Study Group) Number 58 June 2001.

"I was leafing my way through my collection the other day with a view to making up an exhibit, when I made an astounding discovery - well, I think it's astounding, you may not.

The illustration shows an enlarged part of just an ordinary cover that was sent from Mitrovitz (Sremska Mitrovica today) to Ruma in July 1898. The 5 krajczar Hungarian stamp is a **Perfin!**

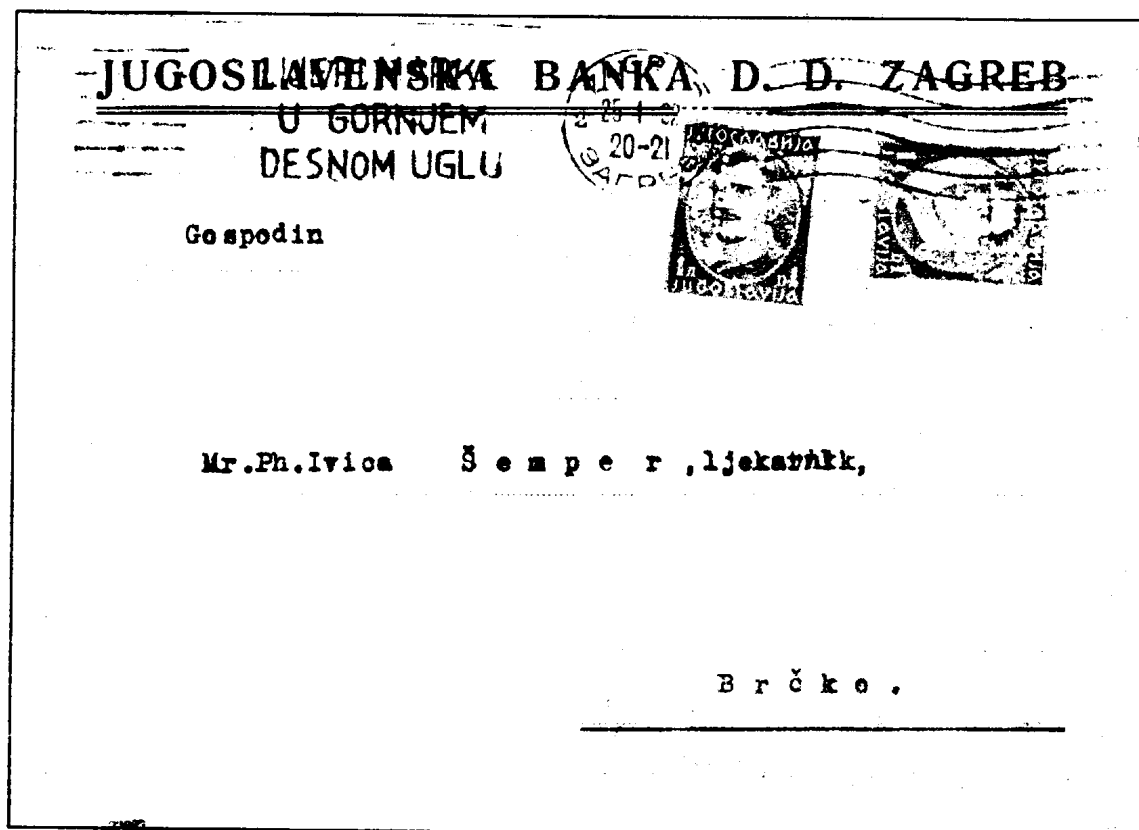


The letter was sent by a branch of the Franco-Hungarian Insurance Company located in Mitrovitz and the initials which are made up by the extra perforation holes are "M.F." which in Croatian stand for Madarska-Francuska (Hungary-France in English)

This is the only Perfin from Yugoslavia, its predecessor and successor states that I have seen. Is this a unique item or am I merely dreaming? Please let me know of any Yugoslav perfin in your collection."

If any of our members feel they can help Geoff in any way, his address is 9 Victoria Terrace, Borstal, Rochester, Kent ME1 3JQ. This article came my way via Philip Robinson. Philip is not one of our members but he always sends me any perfin related items, one of the New Identities in this bulletin being from a cover he bought for the postmarks rather than the perfin.

Subsequent to my writing to Geoff Barling asking for permission to include the above article, he has sent to me the next issue of *Jugoposta* in which were answers etc to the original article. The following therefore is from Issue No.59 September 2001. This was the illustration on the front of their journal.



"The cover of this issue was provided by Mr Ljubieic and shows two perfins used in Zagreb on 25 January 1932.

The Perfin cover story in JP58 provoked a flurry of correspondence. Although I did not intend to start a survey, I can see now that this is a good idea with a view to my writing an article in the next JP.

Members are asked to provide details of Perfins used in the Yugoslav territories - please provide - Date - Place - The name of the Organisation/Company using the Perfin (if possible) - Illustration or Photocopy.

One of our members, David Mallyon, reports that he is setting up a Web site for Hungarian Perfins.

The company which used the Perfin illustrated on the cover of this issue is the **Jugoslavenska Banka**. One of my correspondents, David Hansell, wrote to remind me that he had no response to his query published in JP24 of June 1990 about a perfin used in Zagreb in 1931. Specifically he asked whose *monogram* is the Perfin?

It can now be stated that the answer is the Jugoslavenska Banka but curiously the monogram is back to front compared to that on the cover of this JP - we are into subtypes already!

To answer a query after 11 years is unusual but very satisfying - we pride ourselves on our service!

Finally, I note with pleasure that my Mitrovica Perfin of July 1898 shown on the cover of JP58 is the earliest known so far - can you beat it?